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TERRIBLE DISASTER BY FIRE.

Burning of the Steamboat Berkshire.

SAD LOSS OF LIFE.

Forty Persons Perish in the Flames or Are Drowned.

ROSDOWN, N. Y., Thursday, June 9, 1864.

The steamboat Berkshire, running between Hudson and New-York, was destroyed by fire last night at Rosdow Island, eight miles below here.

The fire originated in the lamp-room, and was caused by the explosion of a lamp.

The loss of life cannot as yet be correctly ascertained, but it is thought from what has been learned that at least forty persons have perished.

At this writing our Reporters sent to the scene of the disaster have not returned.

From the Evening Post.

The Berkshire was a small steamer, recently put on the line running between this city to Hudson, on the North River.

The event was one of the most calamitous of the kind that has occurred since the catastrophe of the Henry.

At the time the Berkshire started from Hudson for this city, between 5 and 6 o'clock last evening, with a large passenger list, said by persons on board to have numbered quite 200 persons.

There were also many cattle, calves, sheep, and other live stock on board, and a large quantity of hay.

The passage down the river to a point near Hyde Park was made without accident and in the ordinary time.

The origin of the fire is not yet known. One account states that it first appeared in the lamp-room, and it is believed that it was caused by the explosion of a lamp.

When the fire broke out, nearly all the passengers had retired to their rooms or berths, and were either asleep or preparing to rest for the night when the alarm was given.

A few persons who had not retired, acting doubtless under the orders of the officers, gave all the early warning.

It does not appear that there was any general alarm or cry of fire.

The fire broke out about 10 o'clock, according to the most trustworthy reports, in some boxes of hay, which were packed in large piles near the bow of the steamer.

It is supposed that some careless person smoking a pipe or cigar in the vicinity of the hay caused the fire.

It soon became evident that the explosion of a lamp caused the conflagration.

The wind was blowing from the south, and the flames beyond description. It had been determined, apparently, to give no general alarm; and even the persons who had friends on board, and who themselves were making efforts to escape, hurried to the berths or staterooms to get their baggage, and to make as much as little noise or disturbance as possible.

It seems that the expectation of the officers was that all on board could be saved, and they acted under this impression.

It is not known at this time, however, that the fire broke out in the lamp-room, and it is supposed that the fire broke out in the lamp-room, and it is supposed that the fire broke out in the lamp-room.

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FROM GEN. SHERMAN.

Our Special Correspondence to June 1st.

HEAVY MARCHING IN ROUGH COUNTRY.

How Georgia Looks—Deserted Villages.

OPERATIONS AROUND DALLAS.

STUBBORN RESISTANCE OF THE REBELS.

THEY ASSAULT AGAIN AND AGAIN.

BUT ARE REGULARLY REPULSED.

ATTEMPT TO OVERWHELM M'PHERSON.

THE REBELS UTTERLY FAIL.

VIRTUE OF FLANK MOVEMENTS.

A Halt at Cassville—Bringing up Supplies.

The Advance—The Enemy Closely Followed Up—A Narrow Escape—Incidents of the March—The Virtue of Flanking—The Approach to Dallas—The Battle—Obstinate Resistance of the Enemy—Rebel Hold on the Wagon.

From Our Special Correspondence.

CASSVILLE, GA., Sunday, May 22, 1864.

Cassville, Cass Co., is a pleasant village situated six miles from Kingston, and two to the left of the Railroad to Atlanta.

It contained, during peace, about two hundred inhabitants, and was the seat of a male and female seminary, the latter called the Methodist College, and the former the Baptist College. Sixty-eight scholars were the most either had on its catalogue at any time.

The Methodist institution was a large brick church with galleries, but having wings added right and left of the vestibule, which were occupied by the professors. The Rev. Mr. Kelsey, a renegade New Yorker, was the head of the college. The female institute, which had about sixty pupils, was apparently a thriving school. The building is of brick, 75 by 45 feet, of three stories, the two upper being divided into large rooms for classes and recitations. It had a fine philosophical and chemical apparatus and library, which, to the infinite disgrace of our soldiers, or of the Rebels, was about half destroyed or carried off. The apparatus was all purchased from B. Pike, Jr., No. 294 Broadway, New York. As the Rebel soldiers were the first in the building (it had long been used as a Rebel hospital), it is alleged that the Rebels, and not our men, caused the destruction. The professor of the ladies' school was a fine old Irish gentleman, named Romke, and educated in Dublin, who came to Georgia via Savannah. The hospitals were two of the best in the South. That occupying the ladies' seminary was kept by Dr. Curry, of Knoxville, and the other by Dr. Naal, of Florida. Dr. Hunter was post-surgeon. By reason of an absurd plan, purposely instigated by the Rebel commanders, who ordered away all families who manifested a disposition to stay and trust to the incoming army for protection, the town was wholly deserted of inhabitants, and, as a natural consequence, the houses were entered and plundered of everything. As between the Rebel soldiers, who were first in the place, and our own, who followed close upon their track, there was little to choose. What was left by one set was carried away or destroyed by the others. This town suffered very little from shells, shot or bullets, during the fight.

A TWO DAYS' REST FOR THE ARMY.

The 23d Corps, which occupied the advance on the direct road to Atlanta, spent Saturday and Sunday in camp, within five miles or less of the crossing of the Etowah, and the soldiers improved the time, in ablutions of person and clothing, and in rest, which the continuous march had made very necessary, but pickets watched the enemy from the higher side of the stream, and occasionally exchanged shots with the Rebels skirmishers who watched them. There was also a pause in the movements of the armies of the Cumberland and of the Tennessee, while the Commissaries were providing twenty days' supplies for the whole army, soon again to renew the march into the heart of Dixie. The trains brought food and forage as far as Kingston, from which wagons conveyed the supplies to the different commands now occupying a front of some twenty miles, from the column of Gen. McPherson and Logan on the right, to the army of Gen. Thomas in the center, and of Gen. Schofield on the extreme left. Gen. Stoneman's cavalry corps, meantime, was engaged in watching the enemy from different points along the extended front, and occasionally falling in with detachments of the enemy's cavalry, engaged in the same enterprise on Rebel account.

THE OLDER TO MARCH—THE RAILROAD LEFT BEHIND.

Sunday night, May 22, brought from Gen. Sherman the order to advance; the whole army to move the next morning. All surplus baggage was ordered to be sent to the rear, the transportation to be reduced to the lowest practicable figure, the troops to be supplied with twenty days' rations, with meat for only two days in the week, and forage to be reduced to four pounds of corn per day for each animal, the remainder to be foraged on the march. Nicely printed maps of the country to be traversed by the Grand Army were distributed among the commanders of corps, brigades, and divisions, and particular directions were given as to the time of starting, the roads to be taken, and the fords or points of the Etowah River to be reached and crossed by each Army Corps. The original order of advance was to be followed—McPherson having the right, Thomas the center, and Schofield the left. The center and right were to swing round upon the left of the army, and, wholly avoiding the direct line toward Atlanta, over which the mass of the Rebel army had invincibly retreated toward their entrenched works, we were now to execute another of those masterly flank movements which gave us possession of the Danard Roost range, with Dalton and Kennesaw, and opened to us the gate into the heart of Georgia. McPherson, already past Rome, is to push on toward Dallas, while the Army of the Cumberland, taking the road from Kingston, crosses the Etowah at different practicable fords, or by the aid of pontoons, and moves on a line with the right of the Army of the Ohio. The latter, under Gen. Schofield, with Hooker on his immediate right, and in fact marching on substantially the same road, proceeds toward Etowah Falls, to cross the river at or near Milon's bridge, about six or eight miles distant. The advance of the 23d Corps, the 2d Brigade, under Gen. Hasell, came within sight of the river about 10 o'clock a. m. The enemy's pickets and sharpshooters, who had been